

## **Lake District Mountain Trial Association**

### **57th Annual General Meeting**

Held at Wilf's Cafe, Staveley on Friday 25th November 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: 14 members and observers

#### **i. Apologies**

David Rosen, Miriam Rosen, Geoff Clarke, Alan Irvine.

#### **ii. Welcome**

- i) Edwin Coope, the president, welcomed those attending and thanked Ben Lyon for continuing his sponsorship and interest in the event.
- ii) Sadly, Dick Courchee had recently passed away. He was a long time supporter of the Trial and, with his wife Sue, had held most offices within the organising team.
- iii) This year's trial had been organised by Andrew Bradley, with on-the-day organisation by Nick Barber, The courses set by Alan Irvine and controlled by Mick Garrett were well received. Fornsides Farm in St. Johns in the Vale was an excellent venue, and the success of the Trial as a whole was again due to the efforts of many, to whom thanks were extended.
- iv) The finances of the Association remain stable, thanks to the continuing support of our Sponsors, and the Lowthian Bequest.

#### **iii. Minutes of the 56th AGM**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Wendy Dodds, seconded by Andrew Bradley and signed off by Edwin Coope.

#### **iv. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **v. Mountain Trial Event Reports**

- a. **Organiser's Report.** Andrew Bradley outlined the main points of his report which appears in full on the LDMTA website, and as an Appendix to these minutes.
- b. **Planners' Report.** A Planner's Report has yet to be received.
- c. **Marshal Coordinator's Report (AB)** An escalating issue was noted with absences and sicknesses. There were sufficient marshals on the fell, but it will become increasingly difficult without new volunteers.

#### **vi. Officers' Reports**

- a. **Membership Secretary (Geoff Clarke).**

## **b. Treasurer's Report**

- i) In regard to Ted Lowthian's wishes, Edwin Coope noted that his stated intention had been for the "monies to be invested and the interest put to good use". Interest rates presently being low, the executors' agreement was sought and given that drawings could be made on capital.
- ii) EC extended thanks to Geoff Clarke and Gordon Pitt (auditor) for their efforts in regard to the accounts.

## **c. General Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report.

## **vii. Election of President**

Edwin Coope was re-elected as President, uncontested.

## **viii. Election of Officers**

The following were elected:

Chairman: Tony Richardson.

General Secretary: Allan Miller

Treasurer: Geoff Clarke.

Membership Secretary: Geoff Clarke.

## **ix. Election of Committee**

Wendy Dodds, Mike Hind, Pete Nelson, Andrew Bradley, David Wolfendale, Dave Fenwick and David Rosen have indicated their willingness to remain on the committee. In addition, Darren Parker and Nick Evans put themselves forward, filling two of the three vacant places on the Committee.

## **x. Appointment of Auditor**

Gordon Pitt had agreed to continue checking the annual accounts, but is looking to step down within the next 12 months, therefore this position is available.

## **xi. Resolutions**

There were none

## **xii. Date of Mountain Trial 2023**

Next year's Trial will be on Sunday 10th September 2023.

## **xiii. Awards**

Andrew Schofield achieved 21 completions, and was presented with a framed photograph in recognition. Andrew is just the 31<sup>st</sup> competitor to reach this milestone in the history of the competition.

**xiv. AOB**

Ken Ledward indicated that Joss Naylor is continuing to make progress following his stroke, and the Committee will communicate its best wishes to Sue (action: AM).

The meeting closed at 7:15

The AGM was followed by an excellent hot buffet meal provided by Wilf's. After this, Jane Reedy gave a well-received talk entitled "The Big Five", relating sundry challenges undertaken during her battle back to health. A retiring collection amounting to c£318 was made in aid of Cancer Care.

## **APPENDIX A – Organiser’s Report (Andrew Bradley)**

### **Organiser’s report of the 2022 Mountain Trial**

The 67<sup>th</sup> running of the Mountain Trial took place from Fornside Farm, St John’s in the Vale. We had a small barn which provided a good base from which to run the various administrative procedures before, during and after the race. An indoor space provides security against bad weather and gives us a good supply of power. It is certainly worth considering a location with indoor facilities along with the area for running when choosing a location. We were able to secure a good parking field next to the barn, and the farmer was kind enough to allow us park and camp the night before.

We had a reduce entry from last year’s figures., and whilst there were a number of people who did not start there were 54 starters on the Classic with 44 successful completions, 35 out of 45 starters completed the Medium trial and 62 out of 69 starters completed the short. A total of 168 runners. ( Last year 64/86, 41/66, 81/82 with 186 /234 )

The weather played a big part in the success of the day, with the car park staying dry and runners happy to stay around for the presentation, enjoying their post-race meal. The catering was provided by Podium Catering and was well received. First aid was provided by Carol Morgan. Pete Bland’s van was in attendance and well supported.

The trial offers remarkable value for money for runners. This is due to significant sponsorship. La Sportiva continue to provide significant financial support for the event. Pete Bland’s shop provide a very generous package for the extensive prizes. Without them the entry fee would have to significantly increase. Ben Lyon has sold Lyon equipment to the workforce, but early discussions have indicated that they are keen to continue to support the race, but it will be known as the Lyon Equipment Lake District Mountain Trial.

Permissions for the use of the area was a challenge with the area having so many individual owners. This included National Trust, John Muir Trust and United Utilities as major landowners. United utilities charge for access. John Muir has a license fee to pay. We are indebted to the many farmers and commoners who gave permission. Everyone spoken to was very supportive of the event and grateful for being asked for permission.

SportIdent provided the main results service, and once again this worked very well. Raynet provided some support from some of the checkpoints which allowed us to track runners around the course.

The event is only possible due to the significant help from a number of people who take responsibility for significant aspects of the organisation, making the named organiser’s task much easier. David Rosen looks after the website update and completes all the liaison with SportIdent – the entries, start times and production of various registration and start lists. There are also a good number of individuals who offer their services for the many essential on the day tasks like registration, car parking etc.

I was unable to be at the trial this year, and handed over to Nic Barber for the actual weekend. I am very grateful for his help with this. He reports that there were no significant issues and that he received many positive comments from the competitors who seemed to have enjoyed their day.

We are always looking to expand the team of helpers, so will welcome offers whether people are members of the LDMTA or not.

## **Appendix B – Treasurer’s and Membership Secretary’s Report (Geoff Clarke)**

### **LDMTA AGM 2022 – Membership Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports**

This year we had 53 annual members join the Association, along with a number of honorary members in recognition of their help in delivering the event on the day.

The Lake District Mountain Trial Association’s total assets at the end of our financial year, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, stand at **£29,768.75**. This significant increase in our funds is thanks to a very generous bequest of £25,000, which I will return to later. The accounts have been audited by Gordon Pitt and we are very grateful for his kind help in doing this.

After having broken even, or close to, for the last few years, this year’s event made a loss of around £1200. This is due to a combination of slightly lower entries than we hoped for along with an increase in some costs associated with delivering the event. In light of these increased costs we have taken the difficult decision to increase the entry fee for next year’s event to £22. This will likely still leave us making a loss, but with a stronger year’s entries hopefully it will be at a more sustainable level. Future entry costs will be under review as we may need to respond again to increasing costs in hosting the event.

As mentioned earlier, this year we received a very generous bequest of £25,000 from Ted Lowthian, who sadly died back in 2021 and had been a great supporter of the Mountain Trial over many years. We are incredibly grateful for his generous donation and, as per Ted’s wishes, will be using it to support the Mountain Trial long into the future.

We have already made a very modest dent in this sum by using around £800 to give our website a long overdue facelift, which has worked very well. A further £70 was used to subsidise entries for young competitors (under 23) at the Trial by £5 each (an initiative that will continue in future years). As such, we have so far spent £900.88 from the ‘JEL Memorial Fund’.

This leaves us with a considerable amount of money with which to do something useful in support of the Trial. We would welcome ideas from the association’s membership on how this money might best be spent and invite anyone with any suggestions to contact our Chairman, Tony Richardson. We are particularly interested in ensuring the Trial has a long and healthy future, and to this end initiatives that promote participation from younger and/or novice competitors are especially welcome.